Too Many Responsibilities

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Annotated Bibliography/Summary

Burnham and Jackson (2000) performed a study on counselors and their daily duties. They stated that counseling roles are often challenging when coming up with a definition, implementation, and interpretation. Burnham and Jackson (2000) explained that the function and the role of a cousenling has change through the years and also changes from school to school. Burnham and Jackson (2000) performed a study on counselors to view their role definitions and role transformation. Using the Myrcik’s Model which is a model of a guidance program using six intervention and then dividing them up directly and indirectly, the model suggest how much time should be spent on the different duties. Burnham and Jackson (2000) also used the Gysbers and Henderson’s model which simply broke down 80% of a counselors time should be devoted to direct services and 20% of the counselors time to indirect service.

Burnham and Jackson (2000) took 80 certifed school counselors and had them complete a questionare about their time spent on the job and what there year and day consisted of. The results that were found were that 72 of the 80 participants used small group counseling, 79 of the 80 used individual counseling, 70 of the 80 cousnelors were responsible for school testing. Thus overall the individual counseling had the highest percentage of participants. There were some nonguidance services though that counselors participated in that are not in the job assignment such as office reception, duplicating material, checking immunization records, record keeping and so forth. The number one nonguidance duties was requesting and receiving records.

Critique

Looking at the percentages of the counselors duties, it was very encouraging to see that 79 of the 80 ‘participants were actively involved in individual counseling. Also there was a high percentage of small group conseling which would entail preventative measures. The discouraging issue that was revelaed was all the nonguidance situations that the counselor would have to deal. Counselors should not have morning duty and lunch duty. Yes, it is a good thing to go into the morning duty or the lunch room while the kids are eating lunch and talk to the kids and build a relationship with them but it should not be an extra responsibility. For one issue, there are several parents that like to meet with the teacher or the counselor in the morning when they drop their child off or before the parent goes to work and this would just add to the confusion of trying to collaborate or consult with the parent.

With all the a counselor is in charge of such as cousenling, small groups, appraisal, consultation, group guidance, consulting with teachers, counselors have enough on their plate to worry about the extra non guidance duties. The counselor’s job is an important job that requires a lot of training; a school can not waste the simple duties on the counselor. Thus it is important for a counselor to fill out a form that explains how much time is spent doing what so that the administration may see what all that counselor does.

References

Burnham, J., & Jackson, C. (2000). School Counselor Roles: Discrepancies

between Actual Practice and Existing Models. *Professional School Counseling*, *4*(1), 41-49. Retrieved from ERIC database